

Happenings H₂O Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services



April—June 2009
Volume 4, Issue 2

A Budget-Friendly Outing

These days, we are all looking for clever ways to save a little money and still have a good time. Your travels this summer may keep you closer to home than they have in the past.

Here is a list of FREE (you heard right) activities that are available at the WATER Center and Herman Hill Park. More information on each item can be found at www.wichita.gov/cityoffices/environmental/watercenter/

Families & Groups

- **Family Adventure Packs:** create your own field trip using one of our backpacks. Packs can be checked out for up to two hours at a time and be used exclusively in Herman Hill Park.
- **Trail Guide:** Explore the numbered posts along the WATER Center's creek using a trail guide that you can keep!
- **Fish Tales:** Join us at 10 AM on the second Tuesday of every month for toddler story time and activity.
- **Nature Bingo:** Grab a bingo card and hit the trail!

Individuals

- **Senior Wednesdays:** On the first Wednesday of every month, the WATER Center offers free adult programming. The topics vary month to month, but stay close to the themes of water, environment, and conservation.
- **Youth Volunteer Days:** Want to connect your youth with the community? Throughout the year, the Center schedules Youth Volunteer Days as a way to involve kids aged 8-15 in what it takes to operate a science learning center. Youth will get dirty—so be prepared!

Senior Wednesdays

First Wednesdays—1:30 PM
Active Adults - No registration needed

April 1: *Do you CARE about Wichita's environment?* by Dr. Elizabeth Ablah: Take part in the CARE program's citizen survey of Wichita's environmental priorities. Have your voice heard!

May 6: *Video: American Eagle, PBS's Nature Series:* The WATER Center recently helped see a rehabilitated bald eagle back to the wild. View the PBS video that was shown the day of the eagle's release.

June 3: *The River* by Libby Albers: Learn a little history and a little natural history during this presentation about the Arkansas River in Wichita.

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following public meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

April

1st **District III Advisory Board**
7:00-9:00 PM

May

6th **District III Advisory Board**
6:30-9:30 PM
11th **Arkansas River Coalition**
6:00-9:00 PM

June

3rd **District III Advisory Board**
6:30-9:30 PM

FISH FEEDINGS

Every Monday and Friday
3:00 PM

Learning Center is Open From:
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays

The WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
is located in
Herman Hill Park
Open daily sunrise to sunset
18-hole disc golf course
Accessible trails
Playground equipment
Picnic areas

**Skateboarding, swimming and
fishing are prohibited**



101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211

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www.wichita.gov

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The WATER Center

Summer Programs—2009

Droplets 0-4 years old

FISH TALES **FREE**
Second Tuesday of every month
10:00 AM

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature activity! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

Looking for more “wet” reading? Check out your local library for more tales!

April 14th

Trout are Made of Trees by April Pulley Sayre
Activity: To celebrate Arbor Day month, we'll make a clay leaf print to take home.

May 12th

Come Away From the Water, Shirley
by John Burningham
Activity: We'll make boats from everyday recyclable material that you can float at home or in the WATER Center's fountains.

June 9th

Gone Fishing by Earlene Long
Activity: We'll take a nature hike and feed the fish in the creek.

July 14th

The Put-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen
Activity: Create a GIANT fish!

August 11th

Wave by Suzy Lee
Activity: We'll look at the ripples and waves in the park fountains.

Minnows 5-8 years old

WHAT'S UNDER THERE? **\$5.00**
June 30, 10 AM—11:30 AM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 6
What lives under that rock? Is there anything under the waterfall? We'll use our hands and some special equipment to take a sneak peak.

ORIGAMI **\$5.00**

July 29, 10 AM—11:30 AM or
August 4, 10 AM—11:30 AM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 6
Discover how to fold paper to look like fish, turtles, and more. We'll experiment with different types of paper and origami designs. You'll take home all your beautiful creations.

MAD (WATER) SCIENTIST **\$5.00**

July 23, 10 AM—11:30 AM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 6
Come find out and experiment with water's wacky behaviors. We'll also collect some water and performs some simple chemistry

Water Rangers 9-12 years old

WATER RANGERS CAMP
\$25.00/Session

Session 1: July 6-8, 10 AM—12 PM or
Session 2: July 20-22, 10 AM—12 PM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 10
Explore and understand fish and their habitats using the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services' Biologist-in-Training program. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate and patch. Each session consists of three consecutive days.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS **FREE**

Friday, June 19, 2-4 PM

Friday, July 17, 2-4 PM

Monday, August 10, 2-4 PM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 6
Youth should dress to be outside in clothing that may get dirty and/or wet. Participants will help the WATER Center staff with special projects in the park.

Aquatic Interns 13-18 years old

RECYCLED ART **\$10.00/Session**

Session 1: June 25-26, 2 PM—4 PM or
Session 2: July 13-14, 2 PM—4 PM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 4
Participants will make their own recycled paper and then shape it into aquatic art. Each session consists of two days in order to allow for dry time.

SERVICE LEARNING **FREE**

August 6, 2 PM—4 PM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 4
This is an opportunity for Aquatic Interns to work directly with WATER Center staff on care of the aquatic displays. We will learn how to collect food by seining the creek and potentially the river. And we will also learn how the displays are maintained and cleaned.

Join PBS's
“Sid the Science Kid”
at various locations
this summer—
including the
WATER Center!

Contact Pat Clough
for a schedule:
pclough@kpts.org



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration Will Close
3 Days Before the Program Date

Participant Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
If Under 18, what age: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____

| Date | Program | Fee |
|----------------|------------------|------|
| ___ June 19 | YVD | \$0 |
| ___ June 25-26 | Art Camp #1 | \$10 |
| ___ June 30 | Under There? | \$5 |
| ___ July 6-8 | Ranger Camp #1 | \$25 |
| ___ July 13-14 | Art Camp #2 | \$10 |
| ___ July 17 | YVD | \$0 |
| ___ July 20-22 | Ranger Camp #2 | \$25 |
| ___ July 23 | Water Scientist | \$5 |
| ___ July 29 | Origami | \$5 |
| ___ August 4 | Origami | \$5 |
| ___ August 6 | Service Learning | \$0 |
| ___ August 10 | YVD | \$0 |

TOTAL _____

Mail Registration to:

PROGRAMS

WATER Center

101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211